

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/779,838	KINDO, TOSHIKI
	Examiner Michael B. Holmes	Art Unit 2121

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to April 29, 2004.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 33-43(renumbered as 1-11).
3. The drawings filed on 29 April 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 08/707,565.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 - www.uspto.gov

Examiner's Detailed Office Action

1. **Claims 33-43 (renumbered as 1-11) are allowed.**

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

2. The following is an Examiner's statement for reasons for allowance:

Examiner has concluded that the closest prior art Hideyuki Watanabe, *Member, IEEE*, Tsuyoshi Yamaguchi, and Shigeru Katagiri, *Member, IEEE*, "Discriminative Metric Design for Robust Pattern Recognition" IEEE Transaction on Signal Processing, Vol. 45, No. 11, November 1997, does not teach or render obvious applicant's claimed invention. According, the primary reason for allowance is "*metric learning means for assigning to the metric signal a value to predict a user's necessity degree to the keyword on the basis of both of the signal showing that each information data is necessary or unnecessary and the vector signal.*"

Correspondence Information

3. Any inquires concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Michael B. Holmes** who may be reached via telephone at **(703) 308-6280**. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday between 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. est. If you need to contact the Examiner, regarding After Final concerns, please send it to **(703) 746-7238**. If you need to send an Official facsimile transmission, please send it to **(703) 746-7240**. If you need to send a Non-Official or Draft facsimile transmission, please send it to **(703) 746-7239**.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the **Examiner's Supervisor, Anthony Knight**, may be reached at **(703) 308-3179**.

Any response to this office action should be mailed to:

Director of Patents and Trademarks Washington, D.C. 20231, or Hand-delivered
responses should be delivered to the **Receptionist, located on the fourth floor of**
Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive Arlington, Virginia.

Michael B. Holmes
Patent Examiner
Artificial Intelligence
Art Unit 2121
United States Department of Commerce
Patent & Trademark Office



Anthony Knight
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Group 3600

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